



February 27, 2013

Public Safety and Security Committee
Room 3600, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

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Re: Raised Bill No. 6454

Dear Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee,

As President of the Connecticut Career Fire Chiefs Association, I fully support this Raised Bill No. 6454, an Act concerning fire station work zones. This will increase the safety of firefighters and educate the public as to the risks of fire apparatus operations around fire stations.

All too often, privately operated vehicles create safety concerns where firefighters are working or directing traffic so as to allow fire apparatus to back in to garages or station facilities. The passage of this bill will create safer conditions for Connecticut firefighters by designating work zones in the vicinity of fire stations. Across the state firefighters frequently experienced hazardous roadway situations that endanger the welfare of our firefighters while returning to our stations. Our efforts to address this have included road markings, use of warning lights and firefighters directing traffic. Even with these actions road traffic often bypasses or ignores these efforts by driving past firefighters directing traffic, crossing onto the lawns and driveways so as to not be impeded and in some cases actually driving into the driveway behind backing fire trucks.

Please help improve and protect the safety of working firefighters in the State of Connecticut by supporting this bill.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Herald
President